

BULLETIN APRIL 2009

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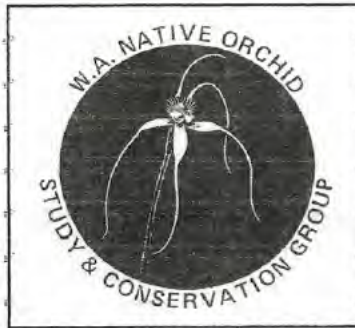
2 Margaret Fox

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Editor:

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WANOSCG (INC) 1974 - 2009

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Ross Fox

Conservation Officer:

Eddy Wajon

Supper Coordinator:

Donna Wajon

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Phil Bunney

Conservation Council**Rep:**

Eddy Wajon

Christine Lock

OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- a) To promote interest in and preserve Western Australian indigenous orchids.
- b) To learn the best means of cultivation and do all things possible for the conservation of native orchids in their environment.
- c) To learn their habits and keep records.
- d) To have field days and learn to recognize the different genera and species.
- e) To hold meetings for the exchange of knowledge and furthering of interest in W.A. orchids.
- f) To affiliate with kindred organizations.
- g) To make rules for the governing of the Group's domestic affairs.
- h) To do all such lawful things as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

Note: The opinions expressed by contributors to this Bulletin are not specifically endorsed by this Group.

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 323, VICTORIA PARK, W.A. 6979

EMAIL ADDRESS: wanoscg@gmail.com

WEB ADDRESS:

WEB MASTER: Don Ward email:

REGISTRAR: Christine Lock

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 15th April 2009 at 7.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 15th April 2009 at 8.00pm at the Lecture Theatre, Kings Park Admin. Office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Please email any Bulletin contributions to John Ewing at [redacted] or call on [redacted]. Articles for the next Bulletin need to be submitted by 1st of the next month.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

15 April General Meeting
20 May General Meeting
17 June General Meeting
15 July General Meeting

19 August General Meeting
16 September General Meeting
21 October General Meeting
18 November General Meeting

MEMBERSHIP **Second Reminder**

Members are reminded that 2009-10 subscriptions of \$25 are now due as at February 1st for the year to January 31st 2010. Payment should be made to the Treasurer, Matz Dahlkamp

with cheques made out to
WANOSCG (Inc).

PLANNED FIELD TRIPS

APRIL 26th Meet at the corner of the Corrigin Brookton Hwy and Jubuk Road North at 11am
The trip is to see *Corunastylis tepperi* (Pygmy Orchid).
Further trips will be advised in future bulletins.

WANOSCG MEETING MINUTES GENERAL MEETING 18 MARCH 2009

OPENED: Meeting opened at 8.35 pm
ATTENDANCE: 34 members present, 5 apologies, as per Attendance Book

NEW MEMBERS: Alan and Margo Erasmus,
Russell and Kristine Thomas

VISITORS: Joanne Castelli

RAFFLE: Kindly donated by Scilla and Gerald Stack.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING 18 November 2008:

Moved: Kim Hansen, Seconded: Etienne Delannoy that the minutes of the meeting of the 18 November 2008 as printed in the Bulletin be adopted. CARRIED

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

Ross Fox presented several options and alternatives that he was exploring and these would be announced later in the year. Currently, no trips were planned.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. President Christine Lock announced that some 10 years of effort by Eve and Jim Parry had borne fruit in the recent announcement that Lot 1997 Frankland had been proposed for reservation as a Conservation Park. Some 88 species of orchids have been found there.
2. President Christine drew members attention to the ceramic sculptures exhibition of works by Luda Korczynsky at the Kingfisher Gallery, West Perth, and exhorted members to take the opportunity to inspect the 44 pieces entitled *Orchidaceae*.
3. President Christine advised that Don Ward had reported that he had revamped the WANOSCG website.
4. Tom Burbidge then spoke about the concept of a Buddy system whereby new members would be paired with an experienced member for introductions and explanations. Tom Blinco drew attention to the practice in another society where there was a duty roster for a member to be the welcoming agent to greet and introduce visitors. Members were reminded of the value of wearing their name badges to meetings to assist newcomers to approach and speak to others. It was moved that there be a volunteer to meet visitors at Group events, moved Tom Burbidge and seconded John Ewing. CARRIED.
5. Tom Burbidge also spoke of the value in the Group providing for children and younger members at Group events. They should be encouraged to attend trips and meetings, with some arrangements to suit their needs, and there could be special events aimed at the young for field work and similar activities.
6. Orchid database: Tony Lock has now converted all existing records into the new database. There were blanks in the records of metropolitan sightings, and members were asked

to consider 'adopting' a neighbourhood bush park, and using the revised sighting reports to record any plants found. The reports were to be forwarded to Christine Lock as Registrar.

7. The Comparative Nomenclature of WA Native Orchids, compiled by WANOSCG members in late 2008 was distributed in hard copy for members without email. Those with emails could expect a copy to be forwarded. Future copies of the document would be available at a cost to defray expenses.

8. Some WANOSCG members living in the Southern Rivers Region (Frankland – Walpole) have written seeking the establishment of a sub-group of WANOSCG based at Albany. The sub-group could help those members meet to share their local interests, arrange field trips and arrange functions. They would pay their membership fees to WANOSCG and could raise funds which would be deposited with WANOSCG treasurer, and be provided a quarterly allocation of funds for their expenditure needs. Steve Phillips had provided comments and suggestions on matters within the Group Constitution which would bear on the establishment of a sub-group, and outlined details of the sub-group's powers and responsibility. All constitutional changes would have to go through the formalities of proper notice and special/general meetings, and once adopted, would have to be registered. In discussion, there was a request that titles (President, Secretary, etc) not be duplicated in the Sub-group.

Moved John Ewing, seconded Eddy Wajon, that this meeting accept the concept of branches of WANOSCG forming, in particular the Southern Rivers region, and investigations be undertaken of the necessary changes to the Constitution (reference Section 26) required to enable those formations. CARRIED.

9. Membership Fees 2009. The Executive Committee had resolved that 2009 Membership fees be \$25 for individuals and families, and that fees in 2010 will be \$30. Joining fees for new members was set at \$25 which provided for one name badge.

10. Eddy Wajon asked members for any knowledge they had of orchids in the Fitzgerald National Park, particularly along the coastal strip. He was preparing a submission opposing the WA Premier's proposal for a road through the Park along the coastal zone. He was recommended to liaise with the Ravenswood Wildflower Society who have great knowledge of the south coastal region.

11. Eddy Wajon referred to damage done to the road reserve in Robinson Road, noted on a recent trip, and tabled draft correspondence raising the matter with the Department of Environment and Conservation.

12. Eddy Wajon reported on developmental proposals for the Jandakot Airport land, and the peculiar community consultation process being followed. Eddy had been invited to participate in a discussion of possible joint management of Ken Hurst Park and the Jandakot bush, but the earlier proposal had been submitted without noticeable change.

13. Phil Bunney, the Group's Auditor, reported to the meeting that the Group accounts had been audited and signed off as correct. He was thanked for his efforts with applause.

14. Correspondence had been received from the Minister of the Environment and Youth, inviting applications for grants funding for community conservation project. A sub-committee of members wishing to be involved will form around John Ewing.

PRESENTATION BY MARK BRUNDRETT

Mark Brundrett then provided a presentation of the achievements of the first two years of the Lotterywest threatened wheatbelt native orchids. There had been some solid achievements from the study, and from the participation of large groups of WANOSCG members surveying sites for the scarce specimens. This had resulted in much larger populations found for some plants, and the work had led to consideration of reservation of tracts of suitable land as conservation areas. He briefly looked at how the project will change in direction for the final two years, considering the science of cultivating and translocating rare species to locations offering greater security from natural predators, and from the changes to the environment caused by human activity.

RAFFLE DRAW

Mark Brundrett drew the raffle which was claimed by Russell Thomas.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next general meeting will be held on 15 April 2009

Meeting closed at: 10.05 pm

CONSERVATION

1. The history of our club is an important part of our heritage. This article documents a part of our history.

WANOSCG CONSERVATION

ACHIEVEMENTS by Noel Clarke

Jeff Spencer drew my attention to a paper published in Swans Vol. 12 No. 3 1982 by S. Hopper entitled "Orchid Conservation in W.A."

Among the highlights was the discovery in 1977 of the lost orchid *C cristata* by Don Voigt of Esperance. This species is now known as *C voigtii*. True specie *cristata* has since been found in the Miling / Ballidu area. Upon representation of

WANOSCG the Australian Orchid Foundation provided \$150 to pay for fencing round the Esperance population which was erected by the farmer & some of our members.

Another event was the repositioning of a new bridge on the Frankland River, at considerable expense, by the Main Roads Department subsequent to Alex George's information of the variety & quantity of orchids on both sides of the approaches to the old bridge.

Following representation the Nedlands City Council made available a section of Karakatta cemetery to enable WANOSCG members to transplant orchids endangered by bulldozers into. This site allowed members to learn how to grow our native orchids for conservation purposes. Members used to weed the area & many years later I saw some transplanted orchids still hanging on. Orchid growing knowledge gained since those days has shown the futility of that experiment albeit experience was gained.

We did an orchid survey for a group living behind the Vines Golf Club whose idyllic lifestyle was threatened. There were a few common orchids, nothing of any significance. Unfortunately the outcome was that the Government swapped an area at the eastern end of the Gnangara pine plantation, an area with better orchids, with the developer. That was the start of the suburb of Ellenbrook.

Also in the general area the *Epiblema* site on Beechboro Rd was saved from the developer with drainage to the swamp catered for.

The Albany Wildflower Society with input by our members managed to get the Baker's Junction swamps declared a reserve.

The attempt to save the then only known site for *D. purdiei* was lost. The site became a service station. A sum of money was provided to study the requirements for conservation by propagation. *D. purdiei* is relatively safe as more sites have been found.

D. huegelii is an enigma. Representation has been made several times for different sites with mixed results. You win some & lose some. This specie is subject to ongoing representations. The known growing locations are reasonably widespread but most populations are very small. Unfortunately it is the larger population sites that attract the developer. We are lucky that many farmers have set aside parts of their holdings in their natural state for their own enjoyment. By doing this they are providing wildflower habitat & wildlife corridors. Our thanks go to them.

Finally pat yourselves on the back. Without members interest in our orchids & associated wildlife the knowledge would not have been gained.

2. Margaret Collins sent me an article about the work Alcoa is doing with respect to researching the effects of their mining on orchids and how the rehabilitation is progressing. Below is a brief summary

Currently, Alcoa World Alumina Australia mines and rehabilitates ca. 550 ha of jarrah forest each year at two open-cut bauxite mines in Western Australia. The aim of Alcoa's rehabilitation program is to re-establish a functional and self-sustaining jarrah forest ecosystem in these mined areas. Many indigenous geophytic plant species, however, fail to re-establish or do so very slowly. Indigenous terrestrial orchids form a significant proportion of the species difficult to re-establish. The dominant source of orchid propagules within the rehabilitation areas is wind-dispersed seed. Recruitment of new plants is dependent on availability of both viable seed and appropriate mycorrhizal fungi in the soil of suitable microhabitats at the beginning of the wet season. Flora surveys were undertaken to determine orchid species and their density in a temporal sequence of rehabilitation areas, so as to establish the sequence of species recovery.

Total orchid population and clonal orchids were found to have returned to rehabilitation areas within 5 years at densities not significantly different from those of adjacent unmined forest. Numbers of total species and clonal species also were found to have returned to rehabilitation areas within 5 years at densities not significantly different from those of adjacent unmined forest. Orchid species identified as disturbance opportunists returned to rehabilitation areas within 5 years with densities increasing during the following 10 years but dropping to numbers not significantly different from those of adjacent unmined forest after 25 years. No disturbance opportunists were found in any unmined forest. Future studies will investigate the recovery of selected individual species in rehabilitation areas, vegetation associations of these species in both unmined forest and rehabilitation areas, and the diversity of their mycorrhizal fungi.

To read the full article email me at [redacted] and I can forward this on to you. I'm sorry I don't have a print version. (Ed.)

3. The following is the first part of an article that appeared in the Australian newspaper on February 11th 2009. The article was titled **SEX, LIES and the PETAL PROJECT**

KINGSLEY Dixon is lying prone on the ground, playing God. He's in the act of procreating with all his clothes on, using a toothpick, a steady hand and a rare flying duck orchid.

The object of Dixon's ardour is a tiny flower on a finger-high stalk, flecked green and yellow and oddly misshapen into a winged bird shape.

Every sighting of this orchid is a rare and exciting one; it's an oddity: one of only four or five known species that can survive in the parched Australian arid zone, so unlike the lush tropics of most orchid habitats.

It also has bizarre sexual habits: a flower that lures male wasps by deliberately emitting the smell of female wasps. The flower's shape and smell has a come-hither appeal to the wasp, which lands and tries to take off with the female wasp in its clutches. Instead, it is flung over and upside down by the flower's hinged part, brushing pollen against itself and the flower stigma.

"Such perfect mechanical engineering," mutters Dixon. "Not too much pressure, not too little."

The rest of us wriggle beneath a woody pear tree on our stomachs, keeping one wary eye out for ground ticks and the other on Dixon's toothpick as it performs its artificial sex act. He gives a gentle prod to a flower, releasing its yellow pollen sac and smearing it on the stigma of another orchid.

"All done," he says triumphantly, untangling his tall lean frame from the leaf litter, standing and brushing himself down. "We're about to bring this species in from the cold," he announces, adjusting his rimless spectacles.

The director of plant sciences at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, Dixon can't leave it to the wasps to fertilise these orchids. "In a couple of weeks this orchid will develop pods with thousands of seeds inside. If we come back and collect them, we've saved this species from the threat of extinction."

To read the full article you can connect the following website

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,25036439-30417,00.html>

4. DALLYELLUP from Phil Bunney

In December 20007, road works had commenced on the corner of Harewood road and Bussell Highway, Dallyellup, to reconfigure and widen the corner crossover.

This area contained a number of native orchid species. Of particular note is a large colony of Slipper Orchids (*Cryptostylis ovata*). The Slipper Orchid is not a deciduous plant as the leaves do not die back after flowering.

During the ensuing road works (about 6 months), the colony of Slipper Orchids could be seen. The area had been slashed to ground level, a new fire access road graded and road materials dumped on the site. After discussion with the road developers, the dumped road material was removed.

Within the next 12 months, the leaves of *Cryptostylis ovata* reappeared, with many of these plants flowering in December 2008 and January 2009. There were in excess of 50 plants in full flower. The colony has in excess of 300 plants within a radius of 20 square metres.

The corner bushland on the highway has now been fenced to keep unauthorised vehicles from entering and destroying this pristine area. These native orchids are now conserved for future time.

There are other orchids in this area including (known) 3 *Caladenia* species, *Pterostylis*, *Diuris* and *Thelymitra* species. A further survey/s will be required to determine the extent of present populations and if there are any other species.

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS During last month I was sent an article about a field trip undertaken in December 2008 by Graham Bowden and Tony Watkinson of the Species Orchid Society. They had taken a trip down to the Windy Harbour area to look at the Babe-In-A-Cradle Orchid (*Epiblema grandiflorum* subsp *grandiflorum*). There are a range of good photos plus a lot of interesting information, much of which I didn't know.

You will find the article on the website of the Species Orchid Society.

	Raffle Roster	Welcomer	SPEAKERS 2009
MARCH	Gerald Stack		Mark Brundrett – Wheatbelt Orchid Rescue Project
APRIL	Glenys Salter	T Burbridge	Ramon Newmann – How I started orchids
MAY			
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER	John Ewing		Photo competition and members slides

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FORTHCOMING FIELD TRIPS
April 26 Corrigin-Brookton Hwy

Others to be advised